

Poor Rental Households v. Available Affordable Units

NUMBER OF POOR RENTAL HOUSEHOLDS AND AVAILABLE AFFORDABLE UNITS
(in millions by year)

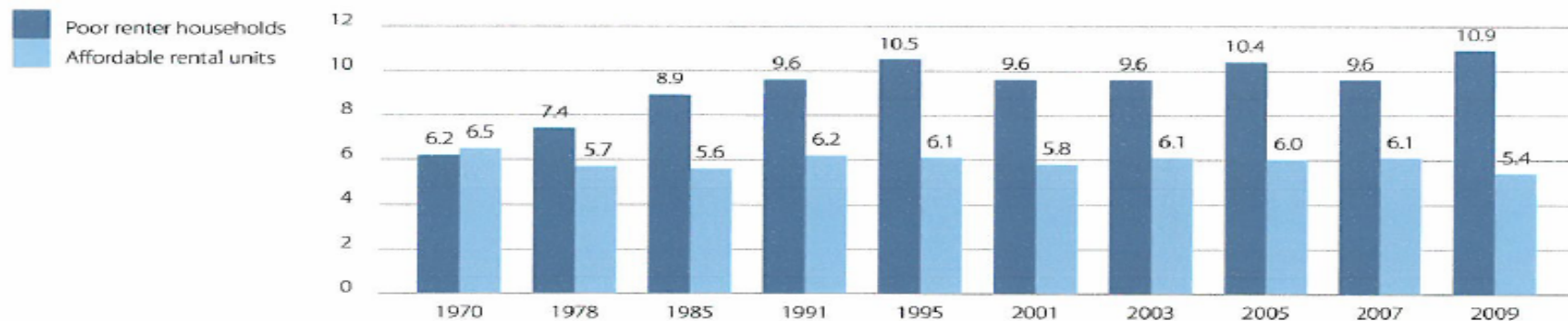
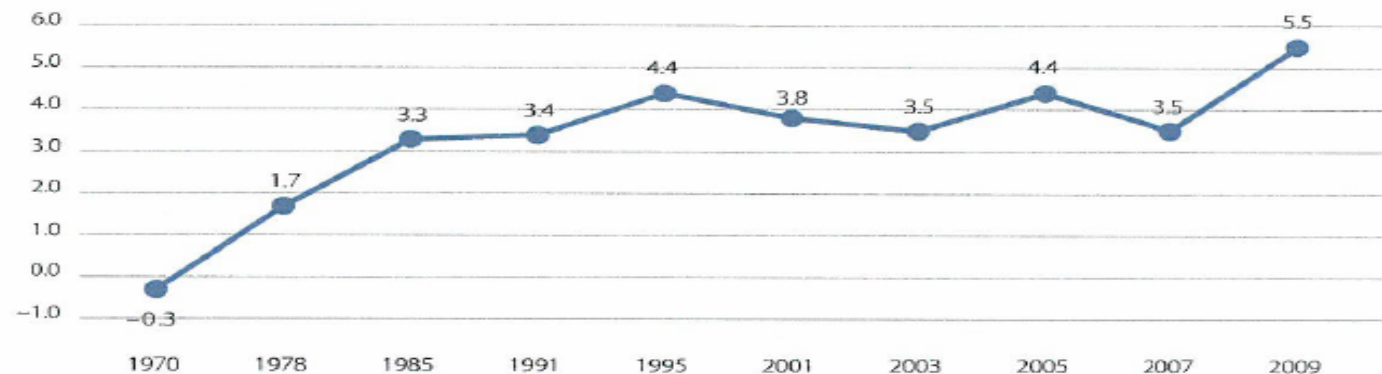


Figure 1B

GAP BETWEEN NEED AND AVAILABILITY OF AFFORDABLE UNITS FOR POOR RENTERS
(in millions by year)



Note: For 1970–95, “poor renter households” are households earning less than \$12,000 annually (in 1995 dollars), and the term “affordable rental units” means housing costing under \$300 per month (in 1995 dollars). For 2001–09, “poor renter households” are households with annual earnings of less than \$18,310, the federal poverty line for a family of three (in 2009 dollars), and the term “affordable units” means housing costing under \$458 per month (in 2009 dollars). The dates cited were selected on the basis of availability of data and consistency with prior ICPH reports.

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *In Search of Shelter: The Growing Shortage of Affordable Rental Housing*, 1998; ICPH analysis of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Housing Affordability Data System.

Remember the Front Screen Door?

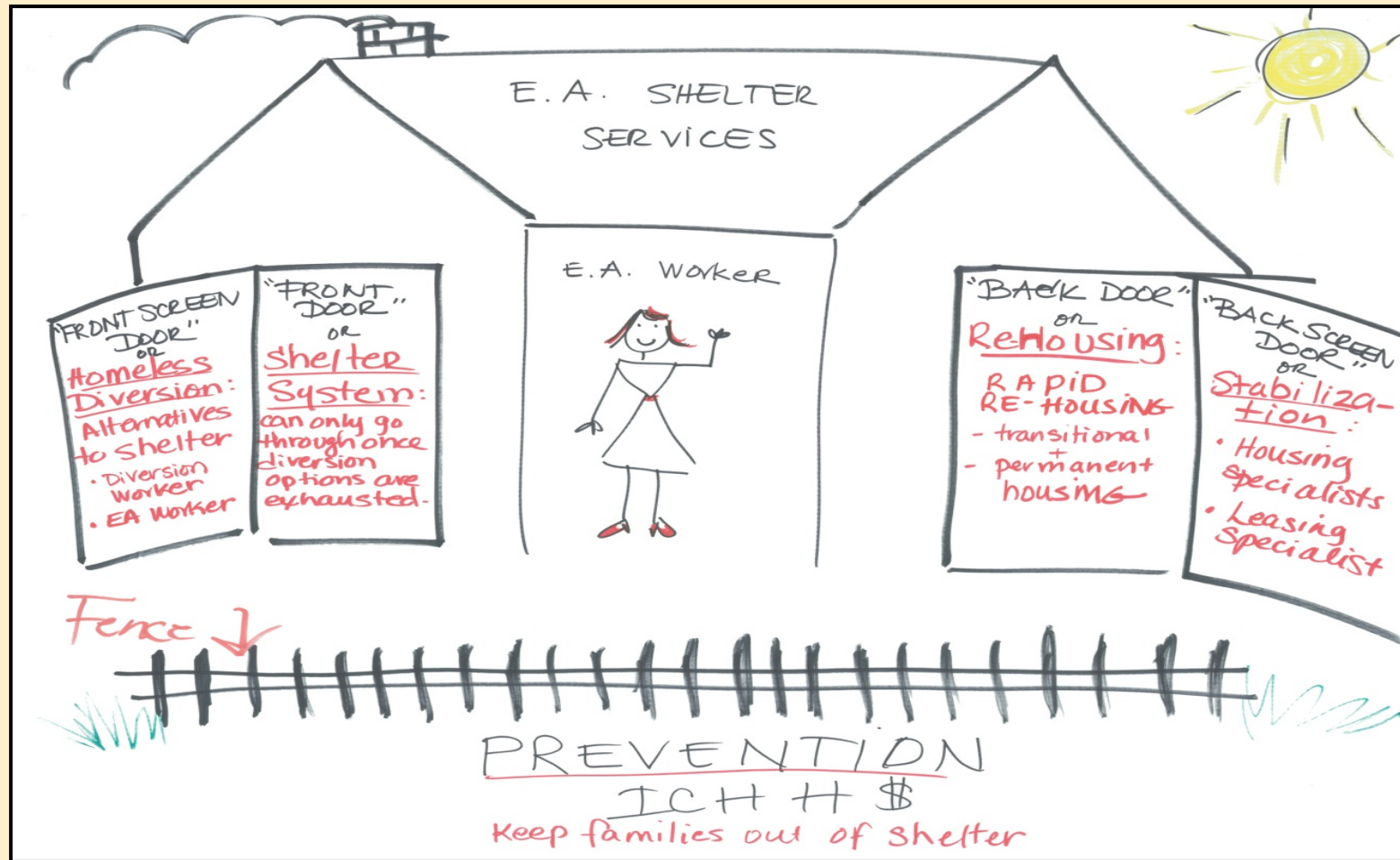
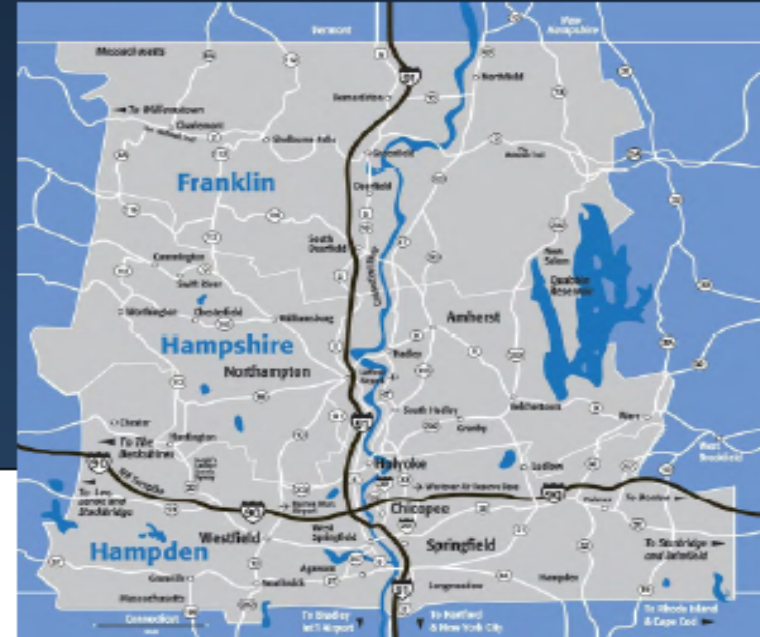




Photo by Heather Brandon



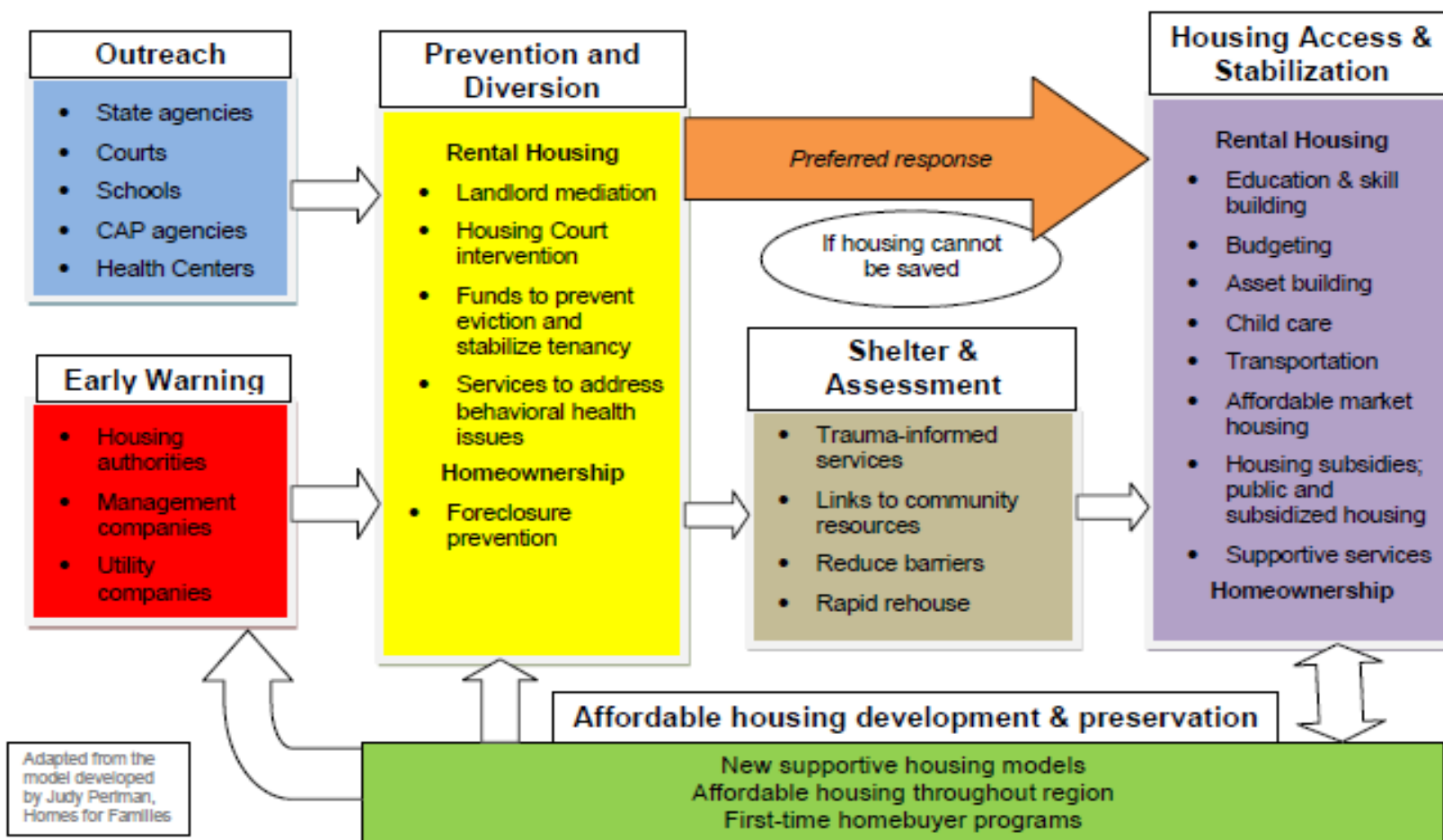
All roads lead home

THE PIONEER VALLEY'S PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

This plan has been supported by the Cities of Holyoke, Northampton and Springfield, MA, and funding from One Family, Inc.

February 2008

A HOUSING-FOCUSED RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS

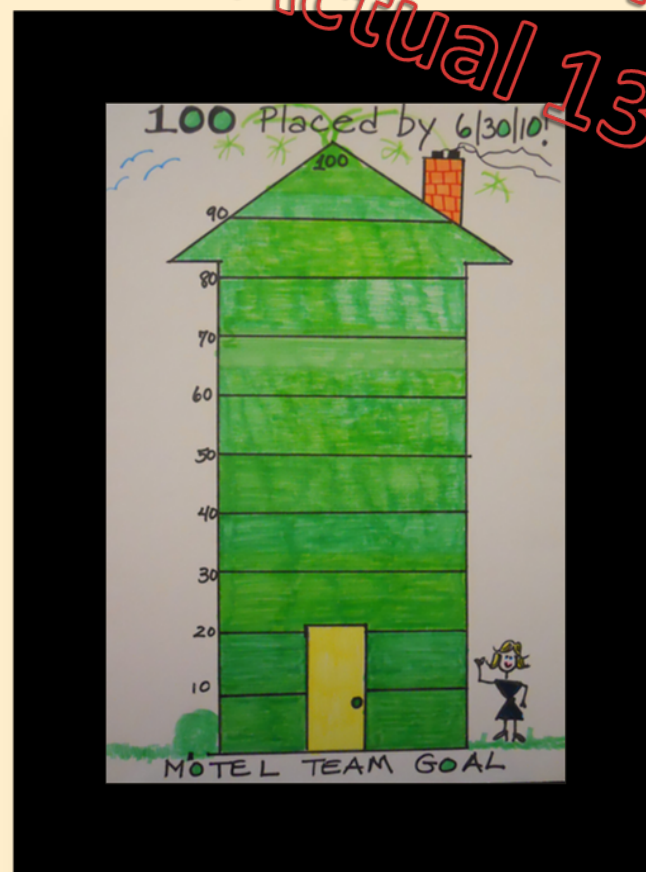


Families Were Successfully Housed!

Shelter
Actual 144

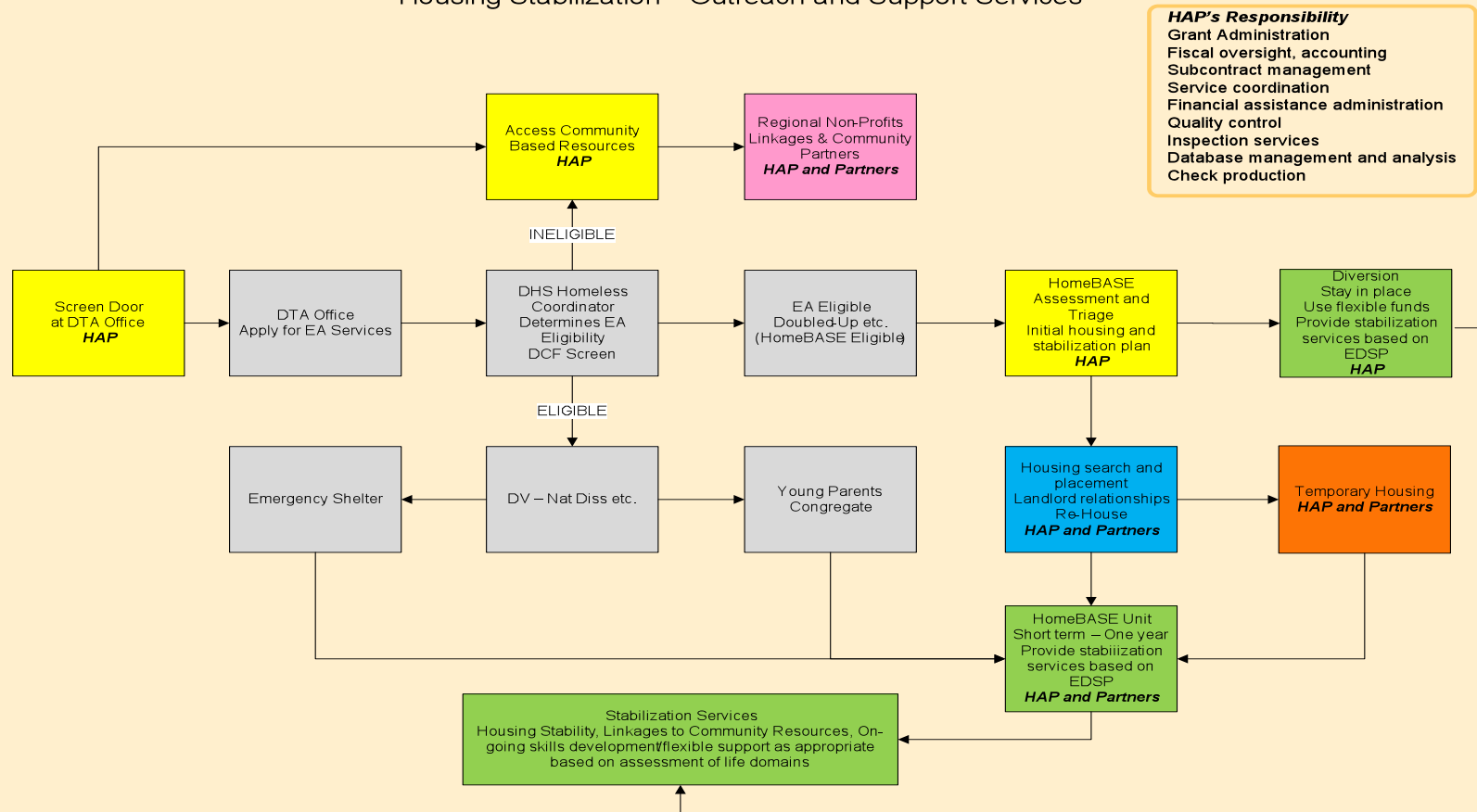


Motel
Actual 132



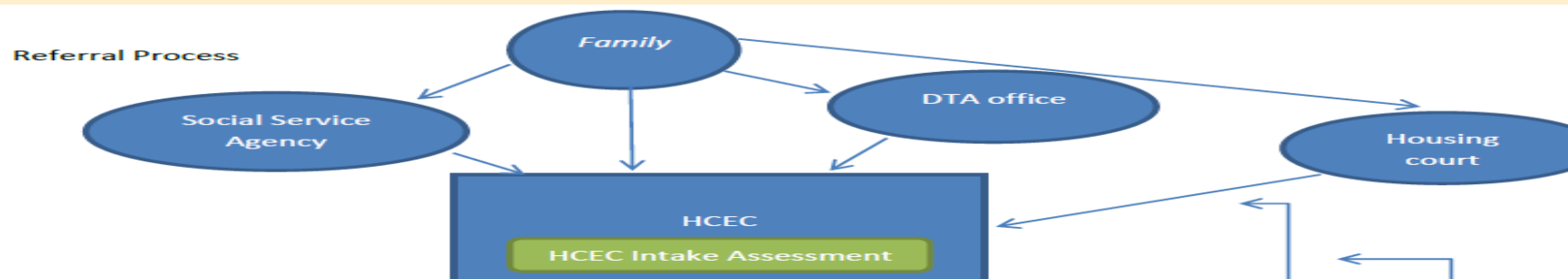
HomeBASE – the Family Homelessness Remedy of the Future

HomeBASE Services
Assessment/Triage/Diversion ~ Placement ~
Housing Stabilization ~ Outreach and Support Services



5/9/2011

See What's New – RAFT!



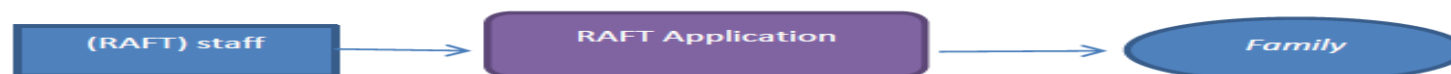
Family can access RAFT through HCEC and may be self-referred or may be referred through an agency. All agencies trained in RAFT program and eligibility requirements. Families may access HCEC intake on line or call or walk into HCEC to receive an HCEC intake form.



RAFT staff reviews completed Intake assessment and determines if family seems eligible for RAFT or if not refers them to other HCEC staff and resources. If seems eligible sets up time for RAFT intake. Family is given information on what documentation may be needed for RAFT intake.



RAFT staff meets with family in person and completes RAFT eligibility intake using targeting tool. Information is entered in Tracker. Family either passes eligibility screen and an appointment is made (within 2 weeks) to complete the RAFT application or is referred back to HCEC or other resource. Families given information on what documentation is needed to complete application. RAFT staff begin to work with family on plan for using RAFT resources. If family needs to take a class this is indicated now.



Two weeks later RAFT staff meet with family to complete RAFT application. Family either returns with all documentation and plan to use resources and RAFT payment is scheduled or family requests additional time (2 weeks) or family does not provide adequate documentation, show up, or complete RAFT application and is considered ineligible and is exited from RAFT with status as application incomplete.

The principles that guide this plan:

- Our community's concern and respect for each of our neighbors, and understanding that it is less costly to end homelessness than to manage it, draws us together to **share the responsibility** of ending homelessness in our region.
- **Every community** in our region needs to contribute and be a part of the solution for us to end homelessness.
- Our region is enhanced by the **diversity of people who live here**, and we support people's opportunity to have stable housing in the community of their choice.
- Solutions to homelessness must be **housing-focused**.
- **Varied, flexible, and accessible supports** must be available to help people retain their housing.
- **Prevention** must be a key part of our strategy, because it is humane, cost-effective, and critical to ending homelessness.
- Strategies that **increase the incomes and assets** of our low-income neighbors provide long-term protection against risk of homelessness.
- The **level of support we provide to our neighbors should be matched to level of need**, and we should create uniform ways to quickly assess level of need.
- **Our plan's success** in increasing housing stability will be ensured through the setting of measurable goals; data collection & analysis; regular assessment of performance; and adjustment of strategies where necessary to achieve our goals.
- **Community education** is necessary to broaden our ability to create policy change at the local, regional, state and federal levels.

The Pioneer Valley

The Pioneer Valley is defined by the Connecticut River, flowing through our three-county area from Vermont to Connecticut. Throughout the region, we are connected by water, which begins in small tributaries and flows into our major river. This interconnectedness is reinforced by the highways that join our region north to south and east to west, and by the farms that supply locally grown food to city tables.

Our region is varied. Franklin County, to the north, is predominantly rural, with open fields and space between towns. Hampshire County, in the middle, is defined by academics, containing five major colleges and universities. And Hampden County, to the south, is predominantly urban, with a suburban ring around its cities. The region is full of natural beauty and cultural amenities, and is cherished by those who live here.

This plan recognizes that among our neighbors are people who live with the crisis of losing their housing. In the same way that we are connected and enhanced by our geography, we are connected and enhanced by community. Our region is strengthened when we see and address need within our community.